

REMARKS

At the outset, it is noted that independent claims 39 and 42 have been amended to clarify the invention. Claims 41, 43 and 44 have been amended to conform to claims 39 and 42. Claims 46 and 47 have been canceled. New claim 48 has been added.

In ¶ 2 of the office action, claims 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In view of the cancellation of claims 46 and 47, Applicant submits that the indefiniteness rejection is now moot.

In ¶ 4 of the office action, claims 39-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Hegarty or Stein in view of Benedicto and Hollreiser. As applied to canceled claims 46 and 47 this ground of rejection is moot. As applied to claims 39-45, Applicant traverses this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

To assist the Examiner in distinguishing the invention recited in independent claims 39 and 42 from the cited prior art, the Rule 132 Declaration of James E. DiLellio, the sole inventor, is being filed concurrently herewith. Applicant respectfully submits that this Rule 132 Declaration clearly identifies the technical features recited in claims 39 and 42 that cannot be found in any of the Hegarty, Stein, Benedicto and Hollreiser references.

In his Rule 312 Declaration, Mr. DiLellio explains (see p. 2) that the GPS Integrity Channel, as disclosed by Hegarty or Stein, involves the identification of faults on the ground and then the broadcast of warnings from the ground to all users via the satellites. In contrast, the instant invention involves generating integrity information internally within the receiver.

Also, in accordance with the instant invention, monitoring bits indicating satellite health are transmitted from the ground to satellites and those satellites then use that information to transmit updated GPS signals without retransmitting those monitoring bits. This feature is not disclosed in any of the cited references. In particular, the Rule 312 Declaration explains that Benedicto teaches broadcasting integrity alerts to the users, i.e., navigation receivers.

Further, the declaration explains that in the instant invention, the navigation receiver performs an internal self-consistency check for fault detection and exclusion. This feature is also not disclosed in any cited prior art reference.


In summary, the cited references neither disclose nor suggest a methodology involving the following: the transmission of URA monitoring bits indicating the health of satellites from

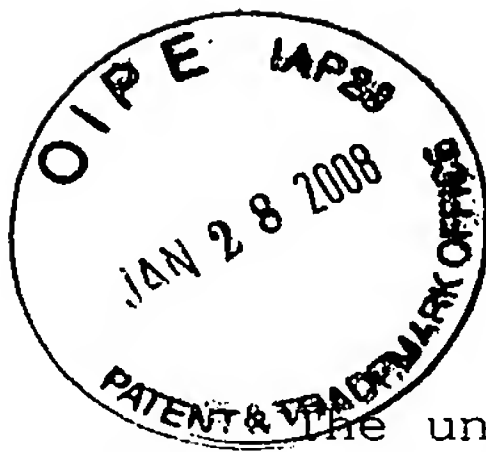
ground to satellites; the transmission of updated GPS signals from said satellites wherein the updated GPS signals take into account those URA monitoring bits; the determination, at the receiver, of the range and position of each satellite based on the updated GPS signals received from the satellites; and the determination, at the receiver, of the integrity of the determined position of each satellite as a function of integrity signals included in the updated GPS signals.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 39-45 and 48 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
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